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National Story Contest

By GRACE V. GRAY

RECENTLY Dean Anna E. Richardson, dean of the home economics division of Iowa State College, spent a day in Chicago helping to select the winners in the national meat story contest. The other three judges were Dr. Louise Stanley, chief of the Bureau of Home Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, Miss Marie Sellers, Home Bureau Editor of Pictorial Review Magazine and Dr. Katherine Blunt, chairman of Home Economics Department, University of Chicago.

For the past three months, more than 11,000 high school girls representing every state in the Union and the District of Columbia have been working diligently in the preparation of stories on meat, each with the hope that her effort might carry off one of the cash prizes offered by the National Live Stock and Meat Board of Chicago.

I have made mention of the fact that the entry list of the contest constituted more than 11,000 high school girls, but that is not all. The boys were represented too, this representation coming from Crockett, California, where three young men matched their literary ability and knowledge of home economics against this great throng of contestants of the fairer sex. And another interesting fact in connection with these boys is that after their stories had been delayed until almost the eleventh hour for some reason, they pressed the aeroplane mail into service and a plane from the west landed their stories in the Chicago office of the board with time to spare before the closing of competition.

The National Meat Story Contest was launched by the National Live Stock and Meat Board as a part of the board's nation-wide educational program on meat and was devised to furnish an incentive to high school students of home economics for a more thoro study in that field. That it has accomplished its aim there is no doubt, if scores of letters received from high school home economics instructors are taken into consideration. These instructors are unanimous in their conviction that the contest has been of unmeasured benefit to the girls in their classes even though these girls were not successful in winning any of the prizes.

The splendid co-operation given by Home Economics instructors in all parts of the country was more than gratifying. This co-operation aided greatly in the success of the contest.

The judges, after careful consideration, proclaimed Pearl Graves, a sophomore in the Union high school, at Lemoore, California, the "National Champion." The winning story was written on the subject, "Meat and How I Cook It."

That you may understand fully the educational value of these stories coming from the pens of high school students, four of the most common subjects upon which they wrote may be cited. These subjects were: "Meat and How I Cook It," "Meat as a Health Food," "Meat as an Economical Food," and "Meat Our Basic Food."

A cook book is to be compiled by the National Live Stock and Meat Board from the best practical recipes submitted. The board stands ready to give this cook book full national distribution to schools, home makers and all other institutions and individuals desiring it.

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